

Iron County Register
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY.
SUBSCRIPTION:
One Year, \$1.50. Six Months, \$0.75.
Three Months, \$0.50.
RATES OF ADVERTISING:
Square 1 inch, 10 cents per column 1 year, \$3.00
Square 2 inches, 1.50 per column 1 year, 50
Square 3 inches, 2.00 per column 1 year, 80
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VOLUME XXI.

IRONTON, MO., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1887.

NUMBER 24.

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Fellow-citizens of Iron county let us act wisely in this matter. Do nothing rashly. Be cool, deliberate, yet firm. Let us act fairly, justly, honestly. Let us do nothing that may cause future regrets; nothing that we shall be ashamed of. "Be sure you are right, then go ahead." Let us not forget that we are neighbors and fellow-citizens. Let us lay aside all selfish motives and remember that we are acting for the public good—the community. Especially let us remember that we are acting for the rising generation; yes, for an indefinite future. This is an important question and has many important bearings. The people ought to be well informed on all subjects connected with it. This is no time for hypocrisy. Let every one, after a thorough investigation, act in accordance with his convictions. And while we are trying to do what we honestly believe to be our duty, let us accord to others the same consideration and respect for their opinions that we claim for our own. Let us be good citizens, act fairly and abide the result of a lawful decision. As stated, there are many phases to this subject. I shall only touch a few.

There is but little need of dwelling on the sin of drunkenness. Few will attempt to vindicate it. All reasonable people not only deplore the habit, but acknowledge its terrible consequences to individuals, families and the country at large.

But the main question is the best means of mitigating the evil and preventing it as far as possible. For it is not expected that any means will entirely prevent drunkenness, no more than laws against other evils which are intended to punish and prevent. No, we do not expect to entirely stop all habitual drinkers from drinking. Their habits are so strong that they will get intoxicated by some means. Although many of these might be reclaimed if the temptations of the saloons, with their social influence, the treating, games, etc., were removed; but we do believe that much can be accomplished by preventing the young men and boys from forming the habit of drinking. We believe that the saloons, with their seductive influences, are the chief manufacturers of drunkards and ought to be closed. The young man drawn there by various attractions, yields to the persuasion of companions to take a drink; then he thinks to be a gentleman he, too, must treat; another thinks he must be social and generous, so he treats. Or a young man meets a friend in the saloon and is invited to drink. He fears to offend his friend by refusing, so he drinks with him and in turn treats. So it goes on until the appetite for strong drink is formed and the habit confirmed. The power of habit is wonderful. Few doubtless fully comprehend this law of our nature, although familiar with the saying that "we are creatures of habit." They think that the poor victims of this appetite for strong drink could govern their appetite if they would and hence they blame them severely, while the fact is, few of them can govern such appetite when it is fully formed. It is the same with reference to opiates and all narcotics. It is, in fact, a disease; a morbid craving caused by irritation and over-stimulation, which leaves a condition of nervous prostration, and the craving to relieve this prostration is the main trouble. It is just like the thirst for water and hunger for food when extreme. The fact is, these poor victims deserve more sympathy than blame. I know what I am writing about. As a physician I have often been urged to give them something to relieve such cravings. They describe it as "terrible," "ungovernable," etc. But say some what can we do? We should remove the temptation as far as possible. We pray, "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." The saloons are public institutions. They exist and are governed by laws which we have made, and can be removed by the same power. Now if we can remove a public evil and refuse or neglect to do so, are we not responsible also for the consequences? We help to make drunkards and then punish them for crimes committed while crazy with strong drink. "Consistency thou art a jewel." We

can't evade the responsibility by saying, "We are not our brother's keeper." Morally, we are responsible to a certain extent. But some say, "Each individual is responsible for his own conduct." True, legally, but morally, in the light of duty, he alone is not responsible. The plea of "personal liberty" is made. No one has the liberty to do anything injurious to others, individual or collectively. What! liberty to injure the community, destroy the peace and happiness of families, to ruin the health and character of individuals? I will not dwell on this part of the subject, nor shall I say anything special on the financial aspect of the question because it sinks into comparative insignificance when we consider the consequences of drunkenness; yet even this point is weak when we remember that most of the money they pay comes directly from the people, and generally from those least able to bear it; and, again, remember the cost of crimes caused by drunkenness.

It is said that 75 per cent. of the convicts in our penitentiaries got there by whiskey, directly or indirectly. Some say if we legislate on such subjects there will be no end to it. Let them consider the extent of this evil. It is overwhelming to contemplate: three-fourth of the convicts, to say nothing of minor crimes. Then consider the family and personal troubles, most of which never reach the public. But some say "Closing the saloons won't diminish the amount of strong drink used." Why, then, do brewery associations send \$50,000 to Texas and \$75,000 to Tennessee to defeat it? Such argument is inconsistent with facts. Others say, "If saloons are closed druggists will sell it illegally." Not if the people enforce the law governing drugists, as they should and will, if they are good citizens. On this point I wish to say that I honestly believe physicians too often prescribe alcoholic stimulants, as a matter of routine, and because patients want it, without regard to the effect in forcing a dangerous habit that may ruin the patient, to say nothing of the hereditary consequences.

There is much said about legislating on religious and moral subjects. The cry is raised of "Uniting church and state!" Is not our legal organization based upon the teachings of the Christian religion? We glory in our "Christian civilization," at the same time we all oppose "the union of church and state" in the correct meaning of that term. The teaching of bible truths and principles has laid the foundation for laws to maintain and enforce those principles. For example, the bible teaches us the institution of matrimony with family relations. We make laws to uphold and enforce that holy institution and its sacred relations. The bible forbids murder, theft, adultery and all the hosts of crimes. Our laws are made to punish and prevent such crimes. The bible teaches the obligations we owe our neighbor, the community, the state. Our constitution and laws are made with special reference to such obligations, and so on *ad infinitum*. Among other things the bible condemns drunkenness and urges temperance. It tells us to beware of strong drink, saying "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." "Who hath we, who hath sorrow, who hath contentions? He that tarryeth long at the wine." "Then look not upon the wine, for at last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder." "Cursed is he who putteth the bottle from his neighbor's lips." The bible teaches all this and much more on the subject. We have made laws to punish and prevent other evils taught in the bible, but must not touch this one. Pray tell us why? Is it such a small evil? Is it so uncommon? Are its consequences so insignificant that we need not notice them? Does it injure neither individuals or communities? Yes, by the teaching of Christianity laws have been made to curb evil passions by punishing crimes and mitigate evils unnumbered, and to elevate our race by every possible means. What then? Must we stop and tremble before this monster, this Goliath, and dare not meet him in open combat? The magnitude of the evil is the reason why so many fear to oppose it. They

also fear it will injure their business, their profession, their prospects for office, their popularity, their success in general. Ought men to be governed by such motives rather than by their convictions of right and wrong? Again I appeal to every man to think of this matter in all its bearings. Decide the question calmly in the light of reason, and then act in accordance with your honest convictions of duty. Don't fear to do what you believe to be right. All good men will respect you for such a course and you will have the approbation of your own conscience and the blessing of God.

G. W. FARRAR, Sr.
An Anomaly in State Politics.

We find the following political personal notice of Treasurer Selbert and his chief clerk, Mr. Noland, going the rounds of the country press and credited to the *Missouri Republican*:

State Treasurer Selbert and the chief clerk in his office at Jefferson City, Mr. Ed. Noland, spent Sunday in St. Louis, and at their hotel met, during the day, a considerable number of their political friends from both in and out of the city. Mr. Noland is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Treasurer, and is said, Mr. Selbert encourages his ambition, and will use his power to help him to the place. Mr. Selbert, because he is to leave the Treasurer's office is not ready to retire from politics. His friends say he has an eye on the place to be made vacant by the retirement of John W. Weyer and hence, however true this may be, Mr. Selbert has as yet made no public confirmation of it. He is a cunning politician. He is looking over the field, he says, but the more discreet who are marching under the banner of his friend Noland, say Mr. Selbert is having up his fences already, and that when he gets ready to announce himself a candidate there will be no chance for any man to take a successful race against him.

If it be true that Treasurer Selbert is doing all in his power to nominate his chief clerk to the office of State Treasurer, and at the same time, is putting forth every effort to boost himself into the office of State Auditor, he is undertaking to cut a very wide swath and to accomplish more than any of his predecessors ever dreamed of. The constitution and the laws of Missouri make the office of Auditor and Treasurer distinct and separate, and the indistinctness of the law, as well as the dictates of common sense, demands that persons elected to these offices should be as far removed from influence of one over the other as it is possible for human beings to be. When we contemplate the vast responsibilities and powers conferred upon these offices, the wisdom of the law is obvious. The control of the entire fiscal affairs of the State is vested in them. Millions of dollars are annually received for and disbursed through their hands. In a word, the disbursement of the entire revenue of the State is done through their agency. If there were no constitutional or statutory enactments upon this subject, this fact of itself would be an overwhelming reason why the one officer should be an ever present and watchful check on the other. Not merely a check in name, but in fact and in deed, both willing and reluctant check, standing by the money chests of the people and ever ready to proclaim, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther!" But the powers of the Auditor and Treasurer extend even beyond the fiscal affairs of the State. By virtue of their offices they are ex-officio inspectors of the penitentiary and as such constitute a majority of the Board of Inspectors. They have power to approve or reject the appointment of the Deputy Warden, Clerk, Chaplain, Matron and all other officers, keepers and guards of the penal institution; to approve or reject all bids for contracts for provisions, clothing, forage, fuel or other supplies, and in connection with the warden they ABSOLUTELY CONTROL THAT INSTITUTION. Nor does the power of the Auditor and Treasurer stop here. They are ex-officio members of the State Board of Equalization, and their votes not only go largely towards determining who shall fill the offices of said Board, but likewise the assessed valuations to be placed upon all railroad, telegraph and bridge corporations of the State. The mere mention of these vast powers would suggest the idea to any thinking man, that these offices above all others should not only be separate and distinct, but that persons selected to fill them should be as far as possible, without influence over each other.

Such a scheme as that foreshadowed by the above extract presents an anomaly in Missouri politics, and exhibits a spirit of office-seeking and office-planning almost without a parallel. It forbodes an evil and a dangerous and invidious precedent which the Democratic party can neither afford to encourage or establish. Behind the department at Jefferson City there is a political power mightier than they. It requires but an exertion of that power to ward off such a precedent and to teach the heads of departments that they cannot deliberately parcel out between themselves and their subordinates the offices of an empire!

The scheme is as unworthy the Treasurer of this great State as it is humiliating to the party that honored him with office, and we are therefore both to believe its truthfulness. There is no promotion in it for Treasurer Selbert, and as yet we are not willing to believe him so greedy for office as he is represented to be.—*Huntsville Herald*.

Educational Column.
JOHN B. SCOTT, Editor.

A SHORT WALK IN GRAMMAR LAND.
Let us walk into this "mysterious realm" in which so many "get lost" in their efforts to lead others safely through. Of all the branches in our common school course this is by far the most difficult to teach. We are now speaking of technical grammar, the science of language. As a rule but little is accomplished in our district schools in the efforts to teach this branch. The poor results of the efforts set forth are attributed to two causes, viz: the weakness of the teacher on the subject and the age and advancement of the pupils. A pupil ought to be fourteen or fifteen years old and able

to read intelligently in the fifth reader before beginning to study this subject. When teachers learn grammar they will have success in their efforts to teach it. Teachers master this subject as far as it is taught by our best grammarians. One source of trouble in teaching this branch is faulty definitions. In the definitions given by grammarians, their phraseology greatly differs, and this leads to different conclusions. Let us stick to one definition—that, the best. One author says: "A verb is a word used to assert;" another, "A verb asserts action, being or state." You will find this definition the better because it will in every case fit. The former will not correspond to all verbs, because all are not used to assert. Infinitives, for example, never assert. Another faulty definition is that of a transitive verb. Harvey says, "A transitive verb is one that requires the addition of an object to complete its meaning." This definition will lead pupils to call all verbs that have a nominative predicate, transitive, and all in the passive voice, intransitive. In the sentence, "James is a merchant," the pupil would say, according to this definition, that is is a transitive verb and merchant the object. In the sentence, "Henry was struck," the scholar would say that *was struck* is intransitive because it does not require the addition of an object to complete its meaning. If you will take the definitions "Verbs denoting action, which pass over from that which acts to that which is acted upon, are called transitive," "those that denote state or being or an action which terminates in the actor are called intransitive," we believe you will have but little trouble in the application of the definitions. Do not hurry over definitions. Have the pupils bring into class illustrations until you are satisfied that they can readily apply the definitions. Have no guess work in the application of definitions. But we have rambled far enough; let us rest awhile.

WATCH THE HABITS OF THE CHILDREN.
A class is called to the board, when a rush is made for the crayon and eraser. Some begin to erase and others to write something on the board foreign to the lesson. A boy is called upon to recite. He stands with his foot upon the desk, both hands in his pockets, carelessly looks around, intent upon nothing, unless it be mischief, except to merely "say his lesson." Time for recense or dismissal arrives and the teacher says, "Recess," or "School is dismissed," when all make a rush for hats, wraps, etc., with a confusion that resembles that of so many wild animals let out from some place of confinement. Have classes move by signals. When a class moves to the board have the members take position and turn to and from the board by signals. Allow no lounging in class. See that each stands and sits in the proper attitude. Dismiss your school by signals. Teachers are largely responsible for bad bodily habits which pupils so frequently exhibit in the school-room.

Teaching is not only an art, but a science. It has principles as definite and well defined as either law or medicine. The time is coming when the applicant for a certificate will have to pass a thorough examination in teaching as a science. We hear it stated by teachers that they like this or that method best. They judge the method from the standpoint of art rather than science. The question should be not whose methods are best, but whose are in accordance with the principles. Every teacher must have his own methods, but they should be scientific. Mere methods will differ according to the variation in the taste, attainments, etc., of teachers. A word or two with reference to the principles of teaching is all we can say in this article.

It may be stated as a principle that the senses constitute the avenue to the mind in childhood. This would lead to the cultivation of the senses by systematic object teaching. As sight and hearing are the senses particularly called into operation, they should be especially cultivated that they may be acute by training.

It may be stated as another principle that proper and related object teaching is the best means of securing attention. This condition of the mind should be thoroughly cultivated for it is the condition of knowledge. Introduce object teaching, therefore, into every exercise where it is possible.

"Perceptive knowledge should be made the basis of primary instruction," "subjects appealing mainly to the reason and judgment belong to the advanced course of instruction," "Ideas should precede words," "objects should precede names," "thoughts should precede sentences," "knowledge should precede definitions," "knowledge should proceed from the known to the kindred unknown," "The inductive should precede the deductive," "The concrete should precede the abstract," are principles every teacher should apply in teaching each branch.

\$20.00 REWARD.
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